

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A heating element for a filter press, the filter press being capable of being supplied with a fluid heating medium and comprising:

a base; and

5 at least one heating plate extending over a plane and made of a heat-conducting material, which is attached to the base;

wherein each heating plate is attached to the base exclusively by a fastener that comprises a flanged portion that is in contact with the heating plate exclusively in one continuous partial area of the surface of the heating plate, the continuous partial area being that is smaller than the remaining surface of the heating plate; and

wherein the continuous partial area is surrounded in the plane by an external area of the at least one heating plate in which the at least one heating plate is not attached to the base.

15 2. (previously presented) A heating element according to claim 1 wherein the expansion of the continuous partial area at least in one of two directions which span the plane of the heating plate and are perpendicular to each other does not exceed 50% of the maximal expansion of the heating plate in this direction.

20 3. (previously presented) A heating element according to claim 2 wherein the continuous area in both directions which span the plane of the heating plate and are perpendicular to each other, does not exceed 50% of the maximal expansion of the heating plate in each of the directions.

4. (previously presented) A heating element according to one of the claims 1 to through 3, wherein:

25 the heating element has a central borehole; and

the at least one heating plate is attached to the base only in the continuous partial area, which is located around the central borehole.

5. (previously presented) A heating element according to one of the claims 1 through 3, wherein the heating element has a borehole in a corner area whereby the at least one heating plate is fastened to the base in only the continuous partial area, which is at the corner borehole.
6. (previously presented) A heating element according to one of the claims 1 through 3, wherein the at least one heating plate is attached to the base only substantially on one edge area of the heating plate.
- 10 7. (previously presented) A heating element according to one of the claims 1 through 3, wherein the at least one heating plate extends in the direction of its plane only within the lateral dimensions of the base.
- 15 8. (previously presented) A heating element according to one of the claims 1 through 3, wherein the at least one heating plate extends beyond the base in the direction of its plane at least on one side.
9. (previously presented) A heating element according to one of the claims 1 through 3, wherein the heating element comprises two heating plates.
10. (previously presented) A heating element according to claim 9, wherein at least one connector is provided to hold the two heating plates in a fixed position relative to each other.
- 20 11. (previously presented) A heating element for a filter press according to one of claims 1 through 3, comprising:

two heating plates of a heat-conducting material and extending substantially over one plane;

- 25 wherein the base is positioned between the heating plates;

wherein the heating plates are connected to each other by means of spacers external to the lateral expansion of the base; and

wherein the entire base can move freely at least in one dimension relative to the heating plates such that a different, thermally-determined expansion of the heating plates on the one hand, and of the base on the other, is possible.

- 5 12. (previously presented) A heating element according to one of the claims 1 through 3, wherein the heating plate has a thickness of at most 2 mm.
- 10 13. (previously presented) A heating element according to one of the claims 1 through 3, wherein a seal between at a minimum one heating plate and the base is circumferentially located at the most exterior edge area of the heating element.
14. (previously presented) A heating element according to one of the claims 1 through 3, wherein the minimally one heating plate is made of a metal or a heat-conducting synthetic or a combination of the two.
- 15 15. (previously presented) A heating element according to one of the claims 1 through 3, wherein the base is made of a synthetic material.